

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be entered, at least because they narrow the issues for appeal.

Claims 1 and 15-17 are currently being amended. Claims 2 and 6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. No new matter has been added.

This amendment changes and deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1, 3-5 and 7-19 are now pending in this application, of which claim 19 has been withdrawn from consideration.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1049234 A2 to Takeshi et al. (“Takeshi”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,732,769 to Staffa (“Staffa”) and U.S. Patent No. 4,576,555 to Ashenfelter (“Ashenfelter”). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

Independent claim 1, as amended, recites “first refrigerant receiving heat of at least the motor and outputting the heat into the atmosphere,” and “second refrigerant receiving heat of at least the speed reducer and outputting the heat to the first refrigerant, a cooling performance of the first refrigerant being higher than a cooling performance of the second refrigerant,” and “wherein the first refrigerant includes cooling water.” Thus, in claim 1, as amended, the first refrigerant, which includes cooling water, receives heat of the motor, while the second refrigerant receives heat of the speed reducer and outputs the heat to the first

refrigerant, where the cooling performance of the first refrigerant is higher than that of the second refrigerant. Takeshi fails to disclose at least this feature of claim 1.

Takeshi discloses a system with a motor M, inverter U, and heat exchange portion C (See FIG. 1). The Takeshi system has a circulation passage L for a first coolant (oil) for cooling the motor M, and a circulation passage F for a second coolant (water), where the passage F has the heat exchange portion C with the circulation passage L (col. 6, paragraph [0036]). The Patent Office equates the first and second coolants of Takeshi with the second and first refrigerants, respectively, of claim 1.

Takeshi, in contrast to claim 1, does not disclose its first refrigerant (water) receiving heat of the motor, while its second refrigerant (oil) receives heat of the speed reducer and outputs the heat to the first refrigerant. Rather, in the Takeshi system the first coolant (oil) cools the motor M.

Moreover, Takeshi teaches away from a system where its second coolant of water receives heat of the motor, while its first coolant of oil receives heat of the speed reducer and outputs the heat to the first refrigerant. In particular, Takeshi discloses in paragraph [0023]:

Because the system is such that the second coolant does not directly cool the electric motor but simultaneously cools the inverter the first coolant which cools the motor by circulation, the heat from the electric motor is reduced with respect to direct heat transfer by heat exchange to the second coolant through the first coolant, and thus it is possible to prevent the temperature rise of the second coolant from rising about the heat resistant temperature of the inverter.

Because Takeshi touts the benefits of not having the second coolant directly cool the motor, Takeshi teaches away from a system where its second coolant of water receives heat of the motor, and it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Takeshi system such that its second coolant of water receives heat of its motor.

Staffa and Ashenfelter were cited for disclosing other features of the claims, but fail to cure the deficiencies of Takeshi.

Claim 17 has features corresponding to those discussed above with respect to claim 1, and is patentable for analogous reasons.

The dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as their respective independent claims as well as for further patentable features recited therein.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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